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POLK'S MINES.

Return of J. B. Killebrew from their inspection.

Good for One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars Per Annum.

A Bazzling Description of Mexico's Mineral Riches—Riding Hundreds of Miles Through Wild and Ragged Solitudes—Interesting Information About the Native Americans—Everywhere Welcomed.

(From the Nashville (Tenn.) American.)

A representative of the American having learned that Col. J. B. Killebrew had returned from an extended tour through the mining districts of Mexico, called on that gentleman yesterday afternoon, when the following facts were elicited:

Rep.—You have just returned from Mexico, and you will greatly oblige me by giving some items of general interest pertaining to that country.

Col. K.—I left Nashville for Mexico on the 20th day of March, going via St. Louis, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Colorado and El Paso, Texas. At the last named place I took the Mexican Central for the city of Chihuahua, where I remained three days, and visited every part of the city. Since the building of the railroad everything is

fast becoming Americanized.

and I found hundreds of Americans engaged in every species of business and most of them very prosperous. Confined to this place are some copper and silver mines, and Boss Shepherd sends all the product of his mines to this point to be shipped or coined, amounting to over \$100,000 per month.

The Mexican Central railroad is built from El Paso southward to San Rosalia a distance of 325 miles, and from the city of Mexico northward 330 miles, leaving a gap of 600 miles to be completed. We went on this road to San Rosalia as far as the northern section extends and from there took the stage to Paral, about 90 miles to the south. This city contains a population of about 10,000 inhabitants and is situated in the midst of

A FINE MINING REGION.

just at the eastern foot of the Sierra Madre mountains. It is a live, progressive town, and has an extensive trade for a hundred miles around it. I visited the schools at this place, and found them astonishingly well conducted. I have never seen anywhere a brighter array of faces. In one branch they greatly excel our own people. I allude to the beauty of their handwriting. It is equal to copper-plate, as specimens I brought home will show.

The mine most extensively operated near this place is known as

THE JESUS MARIA MINE.

and the vein traverses a mountain almost over-shadowing the town. From a bi-mineral report shown me by the manager, a very good idea may be formed of the cost of mining in this region. According to this the cost of taking out ore is \$9.50 per ton, brought up from a depth of 25 feet. Wood for two months cost \$1,600. One dollar is paid for every car of wood, weighing 300 pounds, and it is estimated that nine cars will make a cord. This is by far

THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEM.

in mining, for all the wood consumed has to be transported many miles on the backs of burros (Jacks) and mules. The timber, too, is very small and scarce, until an altitude of 8,000 feet is reached, when the lordliest pines have ever seen stand thickly all over the surface.

The whole expense, including powder and fuse, for taking out 1,000 tons was \$10,365. This is the cost at the mines. The average cost of reducing is \$20 per ton, but you must remember that the process here employed is the one called

THE LIXIVIATING PROCESS.

which is much more expensive than that by amalgamation. In the first named process the ores are first crushed and roasted with salt in a revolving furnace, the heat in the furnace causing the pyrites contained in the ores to give out sulphuric acid, which takes hold of the salt, causing it to give off chlorine, which liberates the silver contained in the ore pulp. The ore is then drawn from the furnace and placed in lixiviating tubes in which a stream of cold water is poured, which washes out the base salts, leaving the silver in the pulp. A solution of hyposulphite of soda is then introduced, which dissolves the silver, after which it is precipitated by the polysulphide of lime. This method of reducing is much more expensive than the one of amalgamation, but it has to be used in the treatment of rebellious ores. In amalgamating the ore has to be crushed and treated with quicksilver, which requires

ONLY A FEW HOURS.

while the first process requires many days.

The Mexicans do not adopt either of these processes but use a crude method, invented in 1551 by Bartholomew Medina, known as the Patio process, by which cold amalgamation is practiced and the ore, after being ground and beaten with quicksilver, is trodden by animals, requiring thirty days to go through a single operation. By this process only 60 per cent of the metal is extracted from the ore.

THE COST

of the lixiviating is \$20 per ton; of hot amalgamation, \$10 per ton, and by the Patio process, \$30. So it will be seen that a free milling ore of low grade may be of much greater value than a rebellious ore that may be very rich. I give these facts because there would otherwise appear some discrepancies in the statements I wish to make about other mines.

I may say here that the State of Chihuahua, which is twice as large as the State of Tennessee, is considered

ONE OF THE BEST MINING REGIONS in Mexico. It is divided into twenty antons and 120 mining districts. Since the conquest of the country by the Spaniards, 575 mines have been worked in this State, and in no case has the depth of the shaft exceeded three hundred metres, because previous to the advent of Americans, no machinery was in use for lifting the ores. All the ore was brought up on the backs of the laborers who climbed notched poles called escaleras, a system still pursued in mines worked by Mexicans.

From Paral my journey in Mexico really began. Here I supplied myself with pack mules, provisions and servants, and

STARTED ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS, the most rugged, probably, in the Western world. For several days together we saw no human habitation, and our altitude for eighteen days ranged from 4,000 to 10,000 feet. This

GREAT ALTITUDE

made the nights very cool, and sometimes disagreeably so. The exceeding dryness of the atmosphere was occasionally oppressive. The roads are only bridle paths, sometimes winding high up on the mountain sides, then descending into terrible canons, where the

LIGHT OF THE SUN'S RAYS ENTERS.

Occasionally for a few miles we would pass over mesas as level as the sea; to enter into narrow defiles, or wind along the precipitous sides of peaks that seem to

RISE TO THE VERY SKIES.

Seldom is the pathway smooth, but is most generally filled with sharp angular rocks or smooth rocky projections. The wonder is how any animal can pass over such roads without being precipitated into

THE ABYSS BELOW.

On the third day out from Paral we stepped on the banks of the Conchos river, where a magnificent hot spring discharges about 100 gallons of water per minute, having a temperature of about 98°. This spring would be worth millions if accessible. As it is, it has a local reputation among the natives for curing almost every disease.

On the eighth day after leaving Paral we entered the ancient town of Guadalupe y Calvo, situated in the midst of the wildest scenery. On some of the highest points surrounding the city, great crosses are erected, to which the natives bow in humility as they pass. All along our route we

CURIOUS HEAPS OF STONES.

surrounded by a cross, each heap indicating the spot where some one was killed. There is also a beautiful practice common throughout the portion of Mexico where I traveled, that of little children kneeling before a stranger and praying that he may have a safe journey.

In descending into the town of Guadalupe y Calvo we had to ride down

STEPS CUT IN THE SOLID ROCK

on the side of the mountain. Two mines are now worked at this place, both owned by citizens of Tennessee. The English company formerly worked them, and from 1841 to 1850

TOOK OUT \$4,375,000.

Failing to get a release of the mines the company abandoned their works, and the population of the town dwindled down from 5,000 persons to 1,000. At present there is but a small amount of business transacted, but every man, woman and child is looking forward with eagerness when the mines will be again to be worked again. They

TREAT AMERICANS WITH MARKED

RESPECT.

I examined the one at this place and found it very rich, and the prospects good for a renewal of the splendid days when millions were sent out on mules to enrich the owners. About forty antons to the southwest of Guadalupe y Calvo are

THE POLK MINES.

These are situated in the El Cuervo mining district, in a deep baranca or V-shaped gorge, 4,700 feet below the path on the mountain top and 4,000 feet above the sea. We were three hours in descending from the top of the mountain, and a more precipitous road was never traveled by domestic animals. The horizontal distance traveled certainly did not exceed half a mile, but the vertical descent made the difference between the frigid and tropical zones. On the mountain top the air was keen and frosty; in the valley below we found the fig, the pomegranate, the banana, the orange, the lemon, the oleander and other

TROPICAL FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

in full bloom, and the air was laden with the odor of the rose, and the perfume of the honeysuckle. Parrots cleaved the air in flocks, while the hot sun poured down his rays at noon, so fiercely that man and beast would find rest and shelter under the thick branches of the tropical trees. Never was there a more lovely climate than in this spot. For only three hours is the heat oppressive, after which the air becomes

DELICIOUSLY SWEET AND COOL.

The clear stream which rushes down the valley, over and around great boulders, adds its own melody to the place, and one can almost imagine he is living in an enchanted land, so happy are nature's surroundings.

MESSES, POLK AND COOPER

have at this place two mines of very great value. They are operating a ten stamp mill in two batteries, with four pans and two settlers. I staid at this place a week and watched the daily product of the mill. I had no way of knowing the purity of the metal extracted, but I am certain that not less than \$400 was

THE DAILY OUTPUT OF SILVER.

to say nothing of the gold. The mill was running on low grade ore that did not yield over \$25 to the ton—ore which had been taken out partly in running a drift to richer deposits in the mines. I went all through these mines and took some ore myself from which I extracted silver in the proportion of

\$625.00 TO THE TON.

The cost of mining ore at these mines does not exceed \$5 a ton, and about an equal sum will pay the cost of extracting the silver therefrom. The ores are entirely free-milling and the cost of extracting the gold and silver from them is only about half of what it would be by lixiviation. One cause of the great cheapness of mining in this district as compared with the Paral district is the greater abundance of labor. Properly organized, and with capital enough to lay in supplies of quicksilver, salt, sulphate of copper and provisions to last through the rainy season, there is no reason why

\$150,000 A YEAR

may not, with ease, be taken out of the two mines. From these mines I went into the State of

DURANGO.

to a town called San Dario, where there is an excellent mine. This is about four days' ride from El Cuervo, and in the midst of very lofty and rugged mountains. Two days more brought me to the Chapulquin district, where there is a large number of mines forming a group about the almost deserted town.

OVER \$18,000,000

were taken from these mines between 1846 and 1870. They will doubtless, in no great length of time, begin to be worked under American direction with increased profit. Everywhere I found the population

EAGER FOR AMERICANS TO COME

to the country. The people are usually very poor and have not capital enough to do enough work on them to prevent their denunciation or "jumping" by other parties. Notwithstanding the inability of the people, by reason of their poverty, to work the mines in an economical way, out of the total exports of the country in 1882 of \$29,000,000, \$7,000,000 is to be credited to gold and

My opinion is that Mexico

HAS SCARCELY MADE A BEGINNING

in the development of its mineral wealth. Throughout the western slope of the Sierra Madre mountains hundreds of miles are now being opened and new prospectors are coming in daily. But within a few weeks large deposits of gold have been found in Lower California, about 60 miles west of a point opposite the Island of Cerritos, and in going from Mazatlan to San Francisco we carried

A BOATLOAD OF GOLD DIGGERS.

For this place. Everywhere throughout Mexico nothing else so eagerly is talked about except mines and mining, and the most reasonable propositions are made to American capitalists who will furnish enough money to buy a stamp mill and reducing works. As to the

LAW-ABIDING CHARACTER OF THE

PEOPLE.

there are a variety of views, but in a ride of 600 miles through the wildest parts of the country, I saw no evidence that people were not as quiet and orderly as, or even more so than in our own country. I cannot subscribe to the sentiment uttered by John Randolph, that the Mexican women are "bloated harlots," and the men "blanketed thieves." I trusted them often with property and with money, and always found them

TRUE TO EVERY ENGAGEMENT.

and ready and willing to abide by and carry out contracts in good faith. I can say further that I was never refused a request and always found them

WILLING TO OBLIGE AN AMERICAN.

It cannot be denied, however, that the country is governed more by local influences than by the laws. The tribunals of justice are too often polluted, and it is an open secret that

JUDGES ARE BRIBED.

and justice, so-called, consists with the full purse.

Labor is abundant and cheap, and wherever a mine is opened hundreds gather around and willingly offer their services at low rates. The universal testimony is that the laboring class is the influence of ardent spirits, and around

to be sold. A civil officer is detailed to see that the local regulation is carried out. This is the case at the Polk mine I saw throughout my entire trip.

BUT ONE DRUNKEN MAN.

The rainy season begins about the 24th of June in the mining regions of Chihuahua and lasts for three months. After that no more rain falls.

Agriculture is in a very low state. A forced stick drawn by two oxen is still the almost universal method of working the soil. Very few crops are made without irrigating. Wheat and corn are grown to a considerable extent on the ranches east of the mountains. On the tierra caliente or hot land the tropical fruits, with sugar, are the principal productions.

THE INDIANS

are nowhere troublesome south of the line passing east and west through the city of Chihuahua. On the contrary they form the best body of wood-choppers to be had in the country.

CUT THE WIRES.—When the Mutual Union Telegraph Company was granted the right of way into the City of New York, a provision was inserted in the franchise obliging the company to remove its poles and to put its wires underground before March 1, 1883. This was not done, and the city of New York, at the southern city limits, fifty-eight in number, were cut, and police were stationed there to prevent the company from putting them up again.

GENERAL NEWS.

Texas bluegrass seed is being tried in West Tennessee. In the absence of lime this grass, it is thought, will thrive best in that section.

The largest sheep rancho in the world is the one at Dimmitt and Webb counties, Texas, where 300,000 head of sheep are pastured on 300,000 acres of land.

The queen's health is evidently a subject of grave fear in England. Her doctor is said to be of a dropsical nature, and the probabilities are that she will be a bed-ridden invalid.

The State Capital of Texas will probably be built of fine granite instead of limestone. It is claimed that this will make it the best State-house on the continent.

Six thousand baby alligators are sold in Florida every year, and the amount of ivory, number of skins and quantity of oil obtained from the older members of the saurian family are sufficient to entitle them to a high place among the products of the State.

Englishmen are getting control of considerable land in America. In Texas 311,000 acres have just been purchased by Mr. Whalley, M. P.; an English syndicate has 1,300,000 acres of bottom land in Mississippi, and another company 2,000,000 acres in Florida.

About a year ago half a dozen colored men, of St. Bernard parish, La., organized a mutual benevolent association. Now the association numbers fifty, and they have accumulated a fund and begun the erection of a school-house for indigent children of their race.

A few days ago Knoxville finished work on her water system at a cost of \$150,000. The two reservoirs were hardly filled with water when the bottom of one dropped out. Now comes news that the other is in the same condition, the water having suddenly disappeared into unfathomable depths.

Savannah News: Joe Brown's income is said to be \$1,000 a day. Of this amount he gets \$500 a day from the Dale county claim. There is no doubt that he is making money faster than any other Southern man. His fortune is now estimated at \$2,000,000. The Senator's son denies the soft impeachment.

An industrious buzz-saw in New Orleans ran against an obstruction in a log through which it was passing the other day, but held its temper and soon cut its enemy to two. When the flank dropped off the workmen found that the saw had bisected an eight inch spherical shell, doubtless a relic of the war. The exterior wound had healed entirely, leaving no trace of the passage of the shell to its resting place.

The New York Herald makes a calculation from the traffic and passengers that crossed the great bridge to and from New York on Saturday, from which it appears that, deducting 10 per cent for sight-seers, the receipts for toll will average \$2,500 each day, or \$1,300,000 a year. Deducting interest at 6 per cent on the outlay of \$15,000,000, the cost of the bridge, there would remain a sinking fund toward paying that debt, \$400,000 a year.

The agricultural laborers of Mississippi, 340,000 in round numbers, embracing men, women and children, including children from ten years of age up to men and women of threescore, manage to wring from the bosom of mother earth the magnificent aggregate of \$63,701,844 per annum, or nearly \$118 to every man, woman and child engaged in stirring the soil and gathering its fruits. The money value of the farms in that State in 1880 was \$33,844,815, against \$81,716,576 in 1870, which shows a wholesome increase in value.

Of the five field generals of the confederate army, J. E. Johnston and Beauregard survive. General Johnston is the general agent of a prominent New York insurance company, and General Beauregard is the adjutant general of the state of Louisiana—where he has created the finest body of militia for its numbers in America. He is also one of the commissioners for the liquidation of one of the old Louisiana state banks, besides which he has other important business connections. There were twenty-one lieutenant generals in the confederate army from first to last, and of these all were from the United States army but four, viz: Richard Taylor, N. B. Forrest, Wade Hampton and John B. Gordon. Of them the following are living: D. H. Hill, who is in North Carolina; Stephen Lee, Early, Buckner, Wheeler and A. P. Stewart, besides the two not from the old United States army mentioned above.

Gustavus W. Smith is the ranking major general living, and is state commissioner of insurance in Kentucky. W. T. Martin lives in Natchez, and is a railroad president. C. W. Field and L. L. Leaux are in Florida, and both are in the employ of the United States corps of engineers. Marmaduke Johnson is in St. Louis and is wealthy. William Preston lives in Kentucky and has a fortune he inherited. Humes lives in Memphis, Tenn. Wirt Adams is an agent for Mississippi, and lives in Jackson. Frank Armstrong lives in St. Louis, and is connected with the Gould system of railroads in the southwest. Churchill was Governor of Arkansas, and lives at Little Rock. Colquhoun was governor of Georgia, and is United States senator-elect from that state. Colston has returned from Egypt, and is living somewhere in Virginia. Dibrell is a member of Congress from Tennessee. Lyon, who commanded one of Forrest's divisions awhile, lives in Eddyville, Ky. I do not know what Mackall, who was a brigadier-general and chief of General Bragg's staff, is doing, but I believe he lives in Georgia. McGowan is a member of the supreme court of South Carolina. Miles, W. R., is a cotton-planting magnate on the Yazoo river, in Mississippi. R. A. Pryor is a prosperous lawyer in New York, and a mirabile dictu. I hear that he is an enthusiastic advocate of Governor B. F. Butler for the presidency. Ripley, "Old Rip," as he was called, is in London, the agent of an American rifle company, and Rody is there with him. John G. Walker is in Mexico, and is getting rich in silver-mining, and Holmes is his partner. William C. Wickham is a prominent railroad man and republican in Virginia. Of the three Lees who were generals, Custis, who was Mr. Davis' chief of staff, is the president of the Washington and Lee college in Virginia; William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, generally called "Fitz," is a planter and is prosperous on a fine estate. Fitzhugh Lee, a cousin of the others, and a famous cavalry officer, owns the "Ravenwood" estate, on the Potomac about fifty miles below Washington, where he is living like a true Virginia planter of the olden time. Robert Lee, the General's youngest son, who served in the ranks a greater part of the war, lives on the James river and owns a handsome estate there. Longstreet lives at Gainesville, Georgia, and is United States marshal. General Early practices law at Lynchburg. Lieutenant-General A. P. Stewart is president of the University of Mississippi, at Oxford, and Lieutenant-General is president of another Mississippi institution of learning. R. H. and Patterson Anderson are dead. General B. Frank Cheatham is the superintendent of the Tennessee penitentiary. General Bates is governor of Tennessee, and W. H. or "Red," Jackson, one of Forrest's division commanders, is living near Nashville on a magnificent plantation. General Wheeler, who commanded all of General Johnston's cavalry, is a planter in north Alabama. General Lawton, the quartermaster-general of the confederacy, is a leading member of the Savannah, Georgia, bar, and General Gorgas, the confederate chief of ordnance, died in Alabama the other day. Cockrell, the ranking confederate general from Missouri, is United States senator.

Mining With Lime.

The new method of mining coal by breaking down with compressed lime, which was first spoken of last summer, has now passed beyond the experimental stage, and its utility has been demonstrated beyond question. The operation consists in drilling shot-holes in the roof of the coal, into which cartridges of specially prepared limestone are introduced. By forcing water on to the limestone steam is generated, and this, with the expansive force of the lime, completes the work of disintegration. The advantages of this method of coal mining are that the risk and dangers which inevitably accompany the use of gunpowder or dynamite are abolished and that the coal is obtained in large masses, thus saving the waste incurred by blasting with explosives. As is well known, coal, when broken small, is deteriorated in usefulness and price by upward of forty per cent; but much of this waste is saved under the new system, as a much greater proportion of the product is "large" coal. Where the miners are paid according to the large coal they mine the new invention will increase their income without altering the rate of wages. It is thus an invention that is likely to produce good results, mechanical and social.

French Children.

The practical way in which the French Government cares for children that work is worthy of study in other countries. It forbids their employment in factories where the material used involves cutting, grinding, honing, or mother-of-pearl being specially enjoined. It will not allow masters to send their children on the roofs of houses, or elsewhere where there is danger of falling. It enumerates certain chemical works from which children are to be barred, such as those in which celluloid, salicylic acid, and some preparations of sulphur are made. It forbids children under 16 years of age from being employed in rag shops, except where these are well ventilated; while boys younger than 14 and girls younger than 16 are not to be set to dragging loads.

Specific regulations of this sort must do much toward checking brutality or carelessness on the part of parents and masters.

SERGEANT BALLANTINE tells the story of a foreign prince who complained to his steward that his horses looked thin. "The corn-dresser will supply no more oats till he is paid," said the steward. "Who will trust us?" asked the prince. "After deep and long consideration, the steward said that he thought they still had credit with the pastry cook. 'Feed the horses upon tarts' said the prince.

WHIPPING.—In some of the factories in Toronto, Canada, young girls are whipped for disobedience and neglect of work, and a society of ladies has been formed for their protection.

Western Stock Raising.

A PICTURE DRAWN OF IT BY A PRACTICAL WESTERN MAN.

A western man who has had a lengthy experience in stock-raising, says that the picture drawn of it by many newspaper writers is altogether too flowery. He says it is the height of folly for a young man to go west with a few hundred dollars in money, invest in sheep, and then sit down expecting to be rich in a few years. He concluded his letter as follows:—A young man starting for the West to engage profitably in stock-raising should have at least \$5,000. Of course he could start on less. Two thousand dollars would buy him horses and wagon, fix up his ranch, pay his ordinary expenses, and buy him 200 sheep; but he would have to work very hard, save all he could, and really ought to have a partner to help do the work. Even with \$5,000 it would be slow work for several years. I would advise a young man of limited means who wanted to go west to raise stock to get up a party of three or four and "pool their issues" for a few years, till they could afford to launch out alone. At any rate, I think a man ought to have himself out to a stockman for a year before he invests. He will thus have a chance to learn the business and can look around for a suitable investment, and perhaps at the end of a year he may not like the life and conclude to return. For the life is a hard one, full of exposure and discomfort. He may have to do his own cooking and washing unless he is fortunate enough to have a better half to do it for him. But he will be his own master, sleep as he never slept before, his checks will be kissed so red that his mother would not know him from an Indian. He will have to work hard, perhaps, day and night, for which he will be well repaid by the increased comfort of his flocks and herds, and by their increase till they cover a thousand hills. But this talk of a man who has no means going west, taking cattle and sheep on shares, putting up a log house on the open prairie, doing his own work, and making his fortune in a few years, is all nonsense. It is a very risky business to say the least, and careful managers will not give stock on shares to anybody who is not well prepared to take care of them or concerning whom they know nothing. The expenses of raising stock are much heavier than supposed. The cost of living is higher than it is here; wages are high, fencing is expensive, corrals and buildings take much time, labor and money; but to one who is willing to work, and wants to get ahead, I say, "Go West," and see for yourself.

Bismarck Saving a Soldier.

A good Bismarck anecdote, showing the prince to have been a good general from his youth up, is the following:

In 1838 he entered the Potsdam battalion of "Garde Jaeger" as a one year volunteer, and six months later, at his request, he was transferred to the "Secund Jaegers" at Greifswald, in order to be able to profit by the lectures in the Agricultural School of Eldena. One of his comrades in the battalion was a young man, who at the present day still counts among the great landed proprietors of the province of Pomerania. He then stood in the second rank immediately behind Bismarck. In spite of stringent orders to the contrary, the recruits persisted in frequently firing a shot at the numerous storks on the meadows near Greifswald while out on a march, drilling or exercising. One day on the march home to the barracks, Bismarck's hind-man brought down a bird with a bullet. The officers, although marching a good way ahead, heard the report, saw the stork falling down, ordered the battalion to halt and forthwith began to examine the curus. Everything was as it should be in the first rank. The culprit in the second rank began to tremble all the more for his safety, inasmuch as his promotion to a lieutenant was at stake in case he should be found out. This Bismarck realized, and while his friend was on the point of voluntarily denouncing himself in order to clear the rest of the men from an unjust suspicion, he whispered to him:

"Look sharp! take your gun in your left arm; I'll throw you mine."

No sooner said than done—so quickly, in fact, that the inspecting officer did not notice it, and the case of the killed stork remained an unexplained mystery. Over a mug of beer that night Private Bismarck declined to receive the thanks of his comrades for a service "which was not worth talking about." To this day the two are pleasant neighbors and sworn friends.

"Dime Novels."

Pernicious stories of the "dime novel" class continue to do their mischievous work, says an exchange. The latest recorded victim was a New London boy, aged fourteen, who shot himself during a period of mental aberration caused by reading dime novels. Parents who hear of such cases and fear for their own boys would wish that some one would kill the writers and publishers of the vile trash that most boys read when they can get it; but such wishes do not mend authors in the least, for there is no one to do the killing. This is plenty of the dime novel is good reading matter, but is not proper; there is plenty of it that is not proper, and fathers who do not see that their boys are well furnished with their own literature for want of a paternal supply.

A BROOKLYN lady caught a burglar in her room, and compelled him to marry her. Since then a great falling out in the number of robberies in Brooklyn, and it is proposed to cut down the police force one-half. There are more ways than one to make burglary odious.—*Norfolk Herald.*

A SNOW DECISION.—The Supreme Court of Illinois decides that no man is obliged to clean the sidewalk opposite his house. The case was that of a resident householder, who let the snow accumulate in front of his property, and, being fined under the city ordinance, appeared to the court.

LIQUOR IN MAINE.

A Picture of a Town Agency in the State and the Manner in which it is Run.

(From the Bath Independent.)

It is a prevalent opinion among many that the city agency is a place where our respectable citizens obtain their rum. This is a fact, inasmuch as nobody who is known to abuse liquor is allowed to obtain any from the agent. Upon the counter of the small shop in Music Hall block are two books, in one of which are given down the name of every person who purchases liquors, with the amount paid, the quantity of liquor purchased, the kind, etc. These books are open to inspection by all. Behind the counter are cases of rum, whisky, etc., and the heads are covered with small bottles filled or empty. It is a picture, in fact, of an old-fashioned barroom, and differs only in the restriction imposed.

Any individual known to the agent as an abuser of liquor never gets a drop. Hard cases now and then drop in and argue with a vehemence only known to thirst, but in vain. Mr. Tarbox is up to most of the dodges. In order to obtain liquor it is not necessary to obtain in all cases a physician's certificate. If a man is known favorably he may obtain his supplies. A large number purchase once or twice each week, another class use only half a pint in two weeks, presumably, as they state, for medicinal or cooking purposes. The names of the persons which recur frequently are those of eminently temperate persons, who prove by their lives that they properly use liquor. Alderman Elliott, who has charge of the agency, purchases only the best liquors from the State agency. Mr. Elliott informed our scribe that he personally had never touched a drop of liquor of any kind in his life, and yet Mr. Elliott has obtained for the Bath agency in spite of this failing, the best of liquors, as Agent Tarbox says. During the past few years the liquors have given entire satisfaction.

In stock are the following liquors, with prices by the gallon and pint:

Rum, \$2.50 per gal.; 30 cts. per pint.
Whisky, \$4.25 and \$5.50 per gal.; 50 and 70 cts. per pint.
Gin, \$4 per gal.; 60 cts. per pint.
Brandy, \$6 and \$8 per gal.; 80 cts. and \$1 per pint.
Ale, \$4 per gal.; 40 cts. per pint.
California wine, \$2.50 per gal.; 40 cts. per pint.
Imported wines, \$5 and \$6 per gal.; 70 and 80 cts. per pint.
Jamaica rum, \$6 per gal.
Porter, \$2.75 per doz. pints; 25 cts. per pint.
Porter, \$4.50 per doz. quarts.
Blackberry brandy, \$1.50 per doz. pints.
Cherry brandy, \$1 per pint.
Export lager, \$1.25 per doz. pints; two bottles for 25 cts.

Among the wines are madeira, old port, and sherry, for use entirely in sickness. The value of the stock on hand varies from \$800 to \$1,000, and no insurance is put upon either it or the agency.

The prices are placed at about 25 per cent above the actual cost of the liquor when placed in the agency, and the design is to sell at a cost which shall simply cover expenses. Last year a few hundred dollars were cleared, and this year it will be the same, owing to increase in population, and next year there will probably be a scaling down of prices.

The agent's salary is \$500. Out of this he has to pay the rent of the agency, which at present is \$50; food and light cost \$50 more, so that it leaves the agent \$150. Take from this house rent \$100, and it doesn't leave a very magnificent salary. Certainly not equal to the income of the rest of the liquor agents in town.

Mr. Tarbox tells us that